

# QUARTERLY

#7 / WINTER 2019  
GIVING BACK

Kindness

is

everything







It's ArtSpace's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary! In celebration, we're asking all friends of ArtSpace to make a gift of \$40. We've made a list of 40 Reasons to Give to ArtSpace. It's chock full of fun tidbits like:

Reason to Give #8: [@blackdoglowertown](#) is just one of our awesome commercial tenants. They make amazing food, have fantastic pours, and showcase art consistently. Check 'em out! Find your reason at [artspace.org/40-reasons](https://artspace.org/40-reasons)



@ARTSPACEUSA

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

As we head into the intense workload of the holiday season and into the New Year, Artspace would like to take a moment to pause and reflect on our work and those who make it possible. There are several major milestones to recall in 2019, from hosting the Grand Opening of the Mesa Artspace Lofts in Arizona to hitting construction milestones on projects in Hawaii, Chicago, rural Colorado, and the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. The Artspace Immersion program is also up and running in both Memphis and Detroit, bringing space expertise to a whole new range of cultural organizations. In November, our Bell Artspace Campus was honored with the 2019 ACHP/HUD Secretary's Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation, and we couldn't be more thrilled. We close

out the year with exciting action in our own backyard: the acquisition of the Northrup King Building—the largest arts complex in all of Minnesota—and the Groundbreaking for Northside Artspace Lofts in North Minneapolis. Stay tuned for the next QUARTERLY for more details on those events! We are thankful to the many foundations, individual donors, government and community leaders, artists, makers, and creatives who have enabled all this work and more. Thank you for entrusting us to carry out our mission for 40 years: To create, foster, and preserve affordable and sustainable space for artists and arts organizations.

Wishing you peace and joy in the new year!

*Kelley Lindquist,  
President*

# EDITOR'S LETTER

Greetings,

Every year since the early days of the QUARTERLY, Artspace has distributed a Giving Back issue as our last piece of the year. Our Giving Back issue has always been a place to highlight the people living and working in Artspace communities who use their creative impact to perpetuate good where they live and work. This year we found it extremely difficult to tell just one such story, so we highlight six folks making waves for the betterment of their communities. This issue also includes our first ever Artspace Holiday Gift Guide, built of Artspace staff nominations, to inspire you to buy local art as gifts for others... or yourself. If you're interested

in knowing where and when you can buy local art in an Artspace community near you, check out our online Holiday Market Roundup and follow us on social media. We'll be sharing information about holiday markets happening in Artspace buildings across the country, and events into the new year.

I hope you enjoy this very special issue of the Artspace QUARTERLY!

Sincerely,

*Tio Aiken,  
Vice President, Communications*

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# SIX ACTS



Since 2017, Artspace has focused our end-of-year publication on the theme of “Giving Back.” Not only is it timely, as winter months tend to bring reflection on compassion and philanthropy, but it gives us a chance to celebrate the goodwill and collaboration of Artspace commercial and residential tenants that impresses us year-round.

## ACT ONE



# OF GIVING BACK



The biggest challenge of these publications is the difficult decision of choosing which of many relevant stories will serve as our feature. So we decided more is more, and are sharing six acts of Giving Back across the Artspace portfolio.

*Captions for banner images on page 18.*

## Organizing Partners Uplift Work of Emerging Graphic Artist

Maamoul Press launched a competition for emerging graphic novelists and the winner, Maya James, received a three-week residency to work on her first graphic novel in the Arab American National Museum's artist residency space at City Hall Artspace Lofts in Dearborn, Michigan. Though only a 21-year-old college student, James has already made waves as a storyteller. She was a youth correspondent for Youth Radio; and she shared her experience as a biracial child encountering racism in a majority-white city in Michigan on an episode of the podcast, RISK! That story went on to run in the New York

Times and USA Today. James' visual artwork has also garnered attention, from a 2018 ArtPrize award to an award-winning series of portraits of inspirational black women that she displayed at the Grand Rapids African American Museum and Archives. "I am here to represent community and people that are striving," James said. Her graphic novel proposal, "LUKUMI: A Story for My Father," focuses on a pair of best friends and the death of one of the girls. It weaves in multicultural elements from the word "LUKUMI" in the title, which James said references the Anishinaabe concept of First Peoples; to elements

of the ancient Yoruba practice that James described as those living in this realm preparing for the next by revering ancestors. Three Orishas in her story represent black femininity and act as superhero guides to the girls: Oya, Oshun, and Yemoja. As part of her residency, James will make a public presentation at City Hall Artspace Lofts. Maamoul Press will also fund and publish her graphic novel.

—Dana Mattice

View James' art on Instagram at [@mayajamesart](https://www.instagram.com/mayajamesart); learn more about Maamoul Press at [maamoulpress.com](https://maamoulpress.com); and learn more about the Arab American National Museum at [www.arabamericanmuseum.org](https://www.arabamericanmuseum.org).

*Left: Maya James, This Woman Believes, 2018.*



## ACT TWO



## ArtUp Provided Free Program to Artspace Residents Nationwide

Based within South Main Artspace Lofts in Memphis, ArtUp is a startup that breaks down barriers in the creative economy, nurtures ideas that drive social change, and launches artists into creative entrepreneurship. ArtUp piloted the Accelerator for Creative Business program to support the growth of creative entrepreneurs—and they gave back to the Artspace community in a big way. The series, which cost \$199 per person, was offered free of charge to Artspace residents locally and nationally. ArtUp Project Coordinator Katyana Dandridge explained that as an Artspace partner, “it just made sense for ArtUp to offer this program to people in different Artspace properties. We know these resources are hard to come by, and that most programs like this cater to the technology field. We wanted to offer this to creatives, so they are not dependent on the gig economy.” Eight local Artspace residents participated; as well as others joining virtually from City Hall Artspace Lofts in Michigan and Artspace’s Sailboat Bend Artist Lofts in Florida. The program ran Saturday afternoons, May 4 to June 29,



with special sessions led by experts from Beats by Dre and Rutgers Center for Urban Entrepreneurship and Economic Development. Artspace residents’ success stories are rolling in: Njeri Fombi received a quote from an investor to open her own brick and mortar lifestyle store; while two others landed roles for the “Bluff City Law” TV series— Princeton James Echols as Production Assistant and Kenneth Wayne Alexander II as Set Dresser.

*Above: Accelerator for Creative Business program participants attend the first virtual class on Email and Digital Marketing Strategies with Wangene Hall, former Email Marketing Specialist at Beats by Dre in Los Angeles, CA.*

*Below: Njeri Fombi. Both images provided by Katyana Dandridge.*

—Dana Mattice



## Giving Back In Their Own Backyard

653 Artist Lofts is located in the northwest corner of Frogtown in Saint Paul, MN, tucked between a community center, greenspace, and the busy Como Avenue. The 36-unit building is L-shaped, with a generous courtyard. The geography is important to consider, since it creates a microecosystem full of families of various sizes and from distinct cultures and backgrounds. It is a small and vibrant enough community that the residents know one another by name and share social responsibility. In spring 2019, this happy hamlet experienced strain begot of neighborhood crime—driving the residents to organize. Weekly resident-led meetings were held; and collaborative, solutions-focused conversations covered topics such as security, kindness, and rediscovering feelings of ownership throughout their neighborhood. Artist resident Jinza Thayer credited these meetings with creating an opportunity for “bringing people together, folding new residents into the mix, and creating a supportive space. It wasn’t a space for complaints – it was a space for action.” That action took place over multiple months in the form of a new Security Committee led by residents Sarah Gustafson and Anita Lee, and building new lines of trusting communications internally, between property management and residents alike. Their work culminated in early July with a clean-up day led by resident Michelle Presley, wherein residents young and old tidied their courtyard – their nexus – after what felt like a particularly long winter. According to Michelle, the day “brought out a sense of community and responsibility... We had a good time, cleaned up, pulled weeds, and topped it off with ice cream treats.”

—Laura Moran

*Above: Some of the young residents of 653 Artist Lofts enjoying the rewards of their hard work. Below: Michelle Presley, the organizer of the clean-up day. Both photos by Jinza Thayer.*



ACT THREE



## ACT FOUR



## A Compassionate Curating Practice: Supporting Breast Cancer Patients and Survivors

Textile artist Susan Marie Borden welcomes new opportunities. “Things come to me in life through the grace of the Lord,” she said. “It’s not praying, it’s just looking.” After losing several friends tragically to breast cancer, Borden realized her artistry could support breast cancer patients and survivors. Her first ARTbreast Initiative exhibit occurred in 2012. She invited artists to craft a decorative bust for an exhibit and auction that raised funds for the Breast Cancer Network of Western New York in Buffalo. It ran successfully, but Borden could not stage a similar event until her move into Artspace Buffalo Lofts in 2016—which offered another found opportunity. With available gallery space for her compassionate curating practice, she repeated her earlier template for ARTbreast. The following year, Borden innovated on the concept to curate ARTpurse, in which artists were invited to create a purse of two or more parts made from one or more

bras. She donated profits to Buffalo’s Hope Chest Dragon Boat Team, which builds a supportive environment in which breast cancer patients and survivors stay active. Borden follows a philosophy borrowed from her father but tweaked to suit her: “Your life is how you fill it up, and that’s your job. And as an artist, this is what I can do.” She and her team (including Paula Marie Borkowski and Kelly McDonald) raised over \$3,500 since 2018 and catalyzed artists to create over 200 artworks which have found homes in mammography, oncology, and gynecology centers throughout western New York.

—Laura Moran

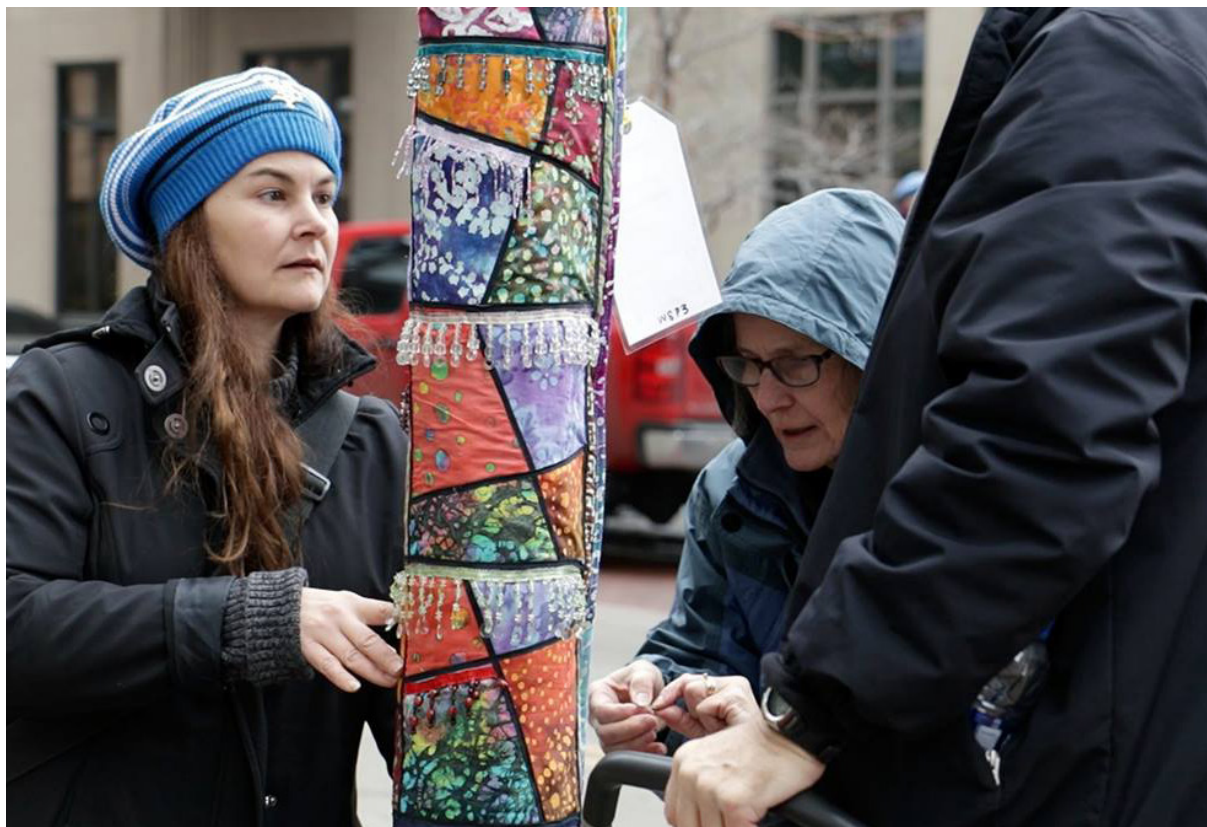
Next year Susan Marie Borden is supporting prostate cancer patients and survivors with her show, *Boldly Blue*. Follow [@Artpurse2019](#) on Facebook to learn how to submit art in 2020.



Top, clockwise: ARTpurses by Kelly McDonald, Madis Kent, and Kelly Lang.

Bottom: Entrance to Artspace Buffalo Lofts. All photos by Hannah McDonald.





## Carrying the Torch for Artist Visibility in Saint Paul's Lowertown

Rachel Wacker is a community curator and multi-disciplinary, social-practice artist. For years she admired the vibrancy of the Lowertown Arts District in Saint Paul, MN; and after moving there in 2010, she became part of an amazing network of community-engaged artists. In 2016, however, the privately-owned artist lofts where Wacker lived was sold for redevelopment, prompting her move to one of Artspace's oldest projects: The Northern Warehouse. It remains among the few artist-friendly buildings left in the area. "People sometimes take the artist community for granted," Wacker said. "They love the energy we bring, but it's important to support those who give so much. All of the things that make this arts district wonderful didn't happen in a vacuum." Wacker calls the individuals who work to keep the arts district vibrant "community caretakers," and has taken on this role herself as part of the "next wave" of artist activists post-1980s. She has garnered the trust

of local businesses throughout Saint Paul, including the Saint Paul Saints Baseball Club, for which she developed a program in which artists activate the ball park during the on-season. Wacker is also behind pop-ups like the Saint Paul Cozy Project that "yarn bombed" 170 lampposts downtown. "Visibility is one of the biggest challenges the art community faces in Lowertown," she said. "If we are invisible, we won't be invited to the table where we can advocate for the resources that we need to thrive ... I'm always working to find legal ways to get art and artists into public spaces in our neighborhood, where we can be seen and heard."

—Tio Aiken

Above: Rachel installing a cozy, "Saint Paul Cozy" Lamppost Yarn Bomb, 2018. Left: "Lowertown Ethos | Art Lives Here" Exhibit reception at the Show Gallery Lowertown, 2019. Both images courtesy of the artist.





## Making a Difference in the Community

James Harvey is a veteran of the United States Army and an active member of the American Legion Post 57 in Elgin, Illinois. James also happens to be one of the original residents of the Elgin Artspace Lofts, and an avid believer in the power of service and giving back. He uses his photography as a way to build bridges in the community, and often donates a percentage of his talent and time. Since moving into his Artspace home in 2012, James has volunteered for countless organizations throughout the City of Elgin. His work has supported the Ecker Center for Mental Health, the Elgin Chamber of Commerce, and the Community Crisis Center (a local women's crisis center). Most notably, James has been a connector in his community, pointing fellow artists and neighbors to opportunities and resources. He sits on the board for the Continuum of Care Kane County, an organization created to help at-risk families who are transitioning out of homelessness. He also has connected many to affordable housing opportunities in Elgin Artspace Lofts, and has provided his photography services to help Artspace promote their newest property: Pullman Artspace Lofts, in Chicago's historic neighborhood of Pullman. And his hard work in his community is lauded: Last year, James was a recipient of the Bicentennial Honor 200 from the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs. When asked what drives him to do so



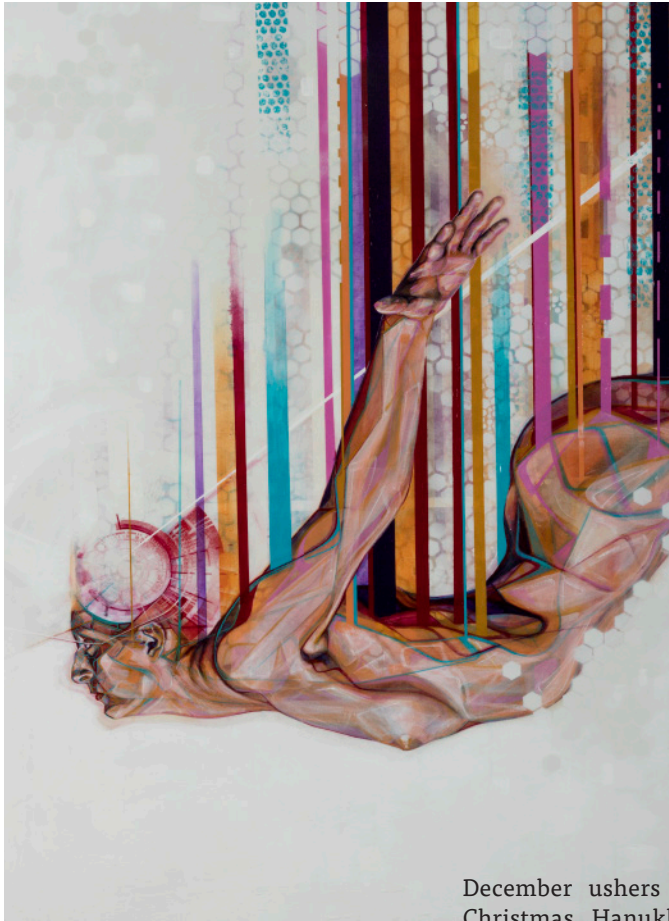
Top: Pullman Artspace Lofts in Chicago, Illinois, June 2019. Below: A tour of Pullman. Anna Lalley, City of Elgin Chief of Police; James Harvey; and Dave Kaptain, the mayor of Elgin. All photos courtesy of James Harvey.



much and engage so many throughout the city, James says, "it's a matter of being a part of the community, being involved, and making a difference."

—Tio Aiken





## 1 Bio-Algorithmic Descent ArtistaFeo

Bio-Algorithmic Descent, \$5000.00.  
Acrylic and spray paint on canvas; 48 x 36".

Contact ArtistaFeo at [ArtistaFeo@gmail.com](mailto:ArtistaFeo@gmail.com)  
Or explore more of their work at [@artistafeo](https://www.instagram.com/artistafeo)  
on Instagram.

# Artspace Holiday Gift Guide

December ushers in a whole host of multicultural celebrations, including Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Omisoka, to name a few. Artspace staff finds gift-giving (and personal wishlist) inspiration from the myriad of works by Artspace residents all across the country. Consider skipping the line at the big box store for the eclectic creations by Artspace artists that are sure to surprise and delight everyone on your list.

## 2 Bronze Sculptures & Shopping Baskets House of Talents

"House of Talents has a lot of items made by African artists that are good for Christmas gifts. I just bought a bronze that only three other people have seen, and each of them used words like 'incredible' and 'striking.' She has another bronze that I'm sure is over three feet tall."

*Mark Conrad, Chief Financial Officer*

"I love these shopping baskets because they are both joyously colorful as well as utilitarian. Having spent some time in Ghana, these baskets bring me back to the infectious smiles and hardworking hands of the Ghanaian people. Plus they are multi-purpose and earth friendly! Finish off your gift by including some of the shop's lovely natural soaps."

*Sarah Swingley, Director, Property Development*



Shopping Basket, \$89.00. Visit the House of Talents showroom at 250 3rd Ave N., Suite 615, Minneapolis, MN. Shop online at [houseoftalents.com](https://houseoftalents.com)



# Artspace Holiday

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**3**

## **Ornamental Hawk** *Katharine Leigh Simpson*

Ornamental Hawk, \$500.00.  
Paper and Recycled Paper.

Contact Katharine at [TianMar@cox.net](mailto:TianMar@cox.net) or explore more of her work at [interestingexperience.com](http://interestingexperience.com)



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**4**

## **Custom Portraits** *Carlos David*

Carlos David is a portrait photographer based in New York City. Specializing in studio lighting, he works on fine art and commercial photography. His services include artist portraits and headshots, editorials, and campaigns.

For bookings, email Carlos at [carlos@carlosdavid.org](mailto:carlos@carlosdavid.org)  
To see more of his work, visit [carlosdavid.org](http://carlosdavid.org)



# Gift Guide



## 5 **Strata (Future-scape)** Travis Ivey

Collage; 68 x 96", 2019.

For more information, email Travis at [travisiveyfa@gmail.com](mailto:travisiveyfa@gmail.com). Check out his portfolio at [travisivey.com](http://travisivey.com).

## 6 **Drift EP** Duende Libre

"Duende Libre's [album] Drift, with Alex Chadsey from Mt. Baker Lofts on keyboard, is cool yet warm, Latin-infused jazz that will warm your wintry heart."

Julie Alexander,  
Asset Manager



Duende Libre, Drift LP. \$14.99 at [CDBaby.com](http://CDBaby.com).  
Visit [duendelibre.com](http://duendelibre.com) for more music and merch.

Did the Gift Guide get you in a gift-buying mood? Get your shopping done at an Artspace property! Find the holiday market and art crawl listings via our online calendar at [artspace.org/events](http://artspace.org/events).



# THE RAFALA GREEN FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: BUILDING THE FIELD

Across the country, we are seeing an emphasis of property development, land ownership, and property ownership as key strategies used to advance social change in culturally distinct communities. These strategies curb the threat of economic gentrification and contribute to wealth-building in areas that have experienced long-term structural divestment or rapid growth that does not benefit existing communities. Additionally, it makes apparent who is leading activity in the real estate development field—and often, that leadership lacks racial diversity. The Rafala Green Fellowship Program is a new initiative from Artspace. Launched in 2018, the program's goal is to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion for people from communities traditionally underrepresented in the real estate development field. The program is currently seeking emerging BIPOC leaders who are supporting the arts, working in the community development sphere, and seeking to build skills related to all aspects of affordable housing, including real estate development, operational and financial planning, cross-sector partnerships, community engagement, and cultural preservation. The long-term goal of the program is that fellows will leverage the knowledge gained to advance social change. This is a paid fellowship program offering a two-year residency, providing fellows with an intimate peak behind the curtain of real estate development and exposure to Artspace best practices. Through the experience of working on Artspace teams, fellows will also gain access to national leaders in the field and expand their network through attending professional development activities and arts and cultural events across the country. Last year, Artspace welcomed inaugural Rafala Green Fellows Amanda Cortés and Jeremy Staab for the 2018-20 iteration of the program.

## RATIONALE

The program seeks to intentionally bring individuals with diverse cultural perspectives into the field of arts-based real estate development. The Rafala Green Fellowship creates a space for both a knowledge transfer as Artspace develops the skills of its fellows, as well as a knowledge shift as Artspace learns from its fellows' fresh perspectives. Artspace has, at the core of its mission, a commitment to empower artists and the arts sector. Through the Rafala Green Fellowship, Artspace deepens its commitment to nurture new leaders in the field, supporting their growth and development to become drivers in guiding arts-based community development wherever their career may lead them.

The program, made possible with funding from the Ford Foundation, is named in honor of the late Rafala Green, an African American artist, community activist, and former Artspace board member who helped Artspace make enduring bridges into the Twin Cities' African American community in the 1990s. Green is best known for her painting, loom work, and mosaics, as well as her ability to use art as an effective tool for advancing social change.

Fellows will be based within the Properties Division at Artspace headquarters in Minneapolis, MN. Fellows work full-time engaging in practitioner-based curriculum and cross-departmental learning opportunities. Although fellows will work on real projects in the Artspace pipeline, they will also go through a series of assessments to develop a customized learning path to determine areas of focus. Fellows will also coproduce Artspace's new podcast, Artspace Perspectives. This is a paid fellowship, and selected participants will receive a \$50,000 annual salary during their two-year tenure, as well as up to \$3,000 in relocation.

## PROGRAM TIMELINE

Application Deadline:  
**January, 15 2020**

Cohort 2 Fellows announced:  
**May 5, 2020**

Cohort 2 orientation date:  
**TBD**

Fellowship Cohort 2:  
**September 2020 - August 2022**

*The Rafala Green Fellowship Program is accepting applications until January 15, 2020.*

*Artspace seeks to place two fellows for two years at the Artspace headquarters in Minneapolis, MN, from September 2020 -- August 2022.*

Visit  
[artspace.org/rafala](https://artspace.org/rafala)  
for more information.





## THIS CORE GROUP ROCKS

When you visit Artspace Consulting's webpage on the Artspace website, you're greeted with a medley of service options. Most involve some level of collaboration, but the paramount two that begin the process for all new Artspace developments are the Preliminary Feasibility Study and Arts Market Study. The success of either is contingent upon extensive outreach and hard work from on-site collaborators who form a Core Group. Few exemplify this model as well as the group we came to know through the Preliminary Feasibility and Arts Market Studies in Little Rock and North Little Rock, Arkansas.

First, to give definition to our work: A Preliminary Feasibility Study (PFS) involves the Artspace Consulting team visiting a community to conduct focus groups and a public meeting; as well as tour potential sites and arts assets to see if an Artspace development is feasible. An Arts Market Study (AMS) is the next step, in which an online survey is deployed to quantify demand for creative space in an area, including type, location, features, size, and price points. The local Core Group (CG) helps carry out the studies by serving as hosts, planners, outreach personnel, designers, educators, and coordinators. The PFS and AMS of Little Rock and North Little Rock—The Rocks—was made possible through support by the Windgate Foundation, who hand-

picked the stellar, 16-person, cross-sector, all-volunteer CG.

"We share a vision of making The Rocks a better place to live by supporting our artist community and elevating our creative economy," explained Mary Kennedy, Director and Curator of the Windgate Museum and leader of The Rocks CG. "That has been the driver for all these folks giving back [to our communities] through our work with Artspace." The work began in April 2019, when the CG met to plan the PFS. Since then, they attended multiple trainings, organized public events, and conducted outreach. CG member Crystal C. Mercer also launched a six-week marketing campaign for the survey, which ran from September 24th through November 5th and resulted in over 800 responses. Mercer helped drum up grassroots survey support by explaining to community members that "nothing was decided, and those who took the survey would see their input reflected in the outcome." Mercer, a black female artist, was also just one of two people of color in the original CG. At her suggestion, the group grew more diverse both ethnically and in skills represented, better capturing their shared community.

The Rocks CG had the added challenge of capturing the needs of two cities. Little Rock and North Little Rock, divided by the Arkansas River, have

a long-standing intercity rivalry—but the CG united the two for the common need of more creative spaces. According to Kennedy, "focusing on our shared values around artists and access to the arts – regardless of which side of the river you live on – has enabled us to keep the usually competitive nature of the relationship in check." Mercer added that "it gave us something to be proud of together." This led to the CG coming up with a new title for their work, "ArtspaceROCKS," which emphasized artists' needs throughout The Rocks area as a whole.

Artspace looks forward to presenting the 10-month PFS/AMS findings at another rockin' public event in January 2020.

Thank you to the Windgate Foundation and the ArtspaceROCKS Core Group members: Ashley Coldiron, Jamie Collins, Brad Cushman, Kelly Fleming, Ben France, Nathan Hamilton, Will Hogg, Mary Kennedy, Heather Larkin, Crystal C. Mercer, Ashley-Pauline Moore, Greg Phillips, Patrick Ralston, Christina Shutt, Melissa Thoma, and Kim Vu-Dinh.

—Aneesha Marwah

*Above: Core Group Members and Artspace Staff at the AMS launch party. Left to right: Mary Kennedy, Aneesha Marwah, Wendy Holmes, Ashley Pauline-Moore, Crystal C. Mercer, Kelly Fleming.*

# MOODY MELODIES AND LIVE MARK MAKING INSPIRE GUESTS TO AMPLIFY SUPPORT DURING **ARTSPACE'S PARTY OF THE YEAR**

On September 19, 2019, Artspace kicked off its Annual Fund Campaign with the second annual AMP it Up! fundraiser, this year held at Artspace's Grain Belt Studios in the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District. The aim of the event is to "amp up" support for affordable space for the arts with art, mimosas, and pancakes. Unique this year was a VIP studio crawl featuring a trifecta of talent: visual artist Tom Riggle; theater company Dark & Stormy Productions; and The Library Recording Studio. Musicians HALEY and Ben Noble—who live and work in Artspace buildings, respectively—kept

the party rocking with lush melodies; while Juxtaposition Arts' Patricio Delara created an Artspace-inspired original print, with the process live-projected for all to witness. Some 130 guests came out to show their support—many of whom were new friends to Artspace. Collectively, attendees and sponsors helped us raise \$54,268 throughout the evening.

We are incredibly grateful for the support of our residents, board of directors, and champions both locally and across the country. Artspace projects like the Grain Belt Studios

are made possible by the support of many. If you were unable to attend AMP it Up! but would still like to help, please consider making a gift of \$40 to Artspace in celebration of Artspace's 40th Anniversary. Your impact will be doubled by TCF Bank, who is graciously matching gifts dollar-for-dollar, up to \$25,000, through the end of the year. Affordable space is needed for artists now more than ever; and with your assistance, Artspace will create, foster, and preserve affordable and sustainable spaces for the next generation.

—Dana Mattice



Visit our website to discover  
**40 Reasons to Give** for our 40<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary, & make a gift online.

**Donations will be matched dollar-**  
**for-dollar, up to \$25,000 by TCF**  
**Bank through December 31, 2019.**

Above: Attendees of Artspace AMP it Up!  
enjoy pancakes and mimosas.  
Below: Studio visits showcased a wide  
variety of creatives throughout Grain Belt  
Studios. Photos by Paul Hjellming.





## WHO BROUGHT THE HUMBUG? AN UPDATE ON LEADERSHIP AND PERFORMANCES AT THE COWLES CENTER

It's been nearly a year since The Cowles Center promoted four long-serving senior staff members to the Directors Collaborative, a new executive leadership model that brings collaboration and shared decision-making to the helm of the Center. Led by Joseph Bingham (Director of Production), Jessi Fett (Director of Education & Community Engagement), Robert C. Drodgy (Director of Advancement & Strategic Partnerships), and Kate Tucker (Director of Development), The Cowles Center launched its 9<sup>th</sup> season in September. This season's mix features nine companies or artist collectives making their Cowles Center debut—the most since the Center's inaugural season in 2011.

This new leadership team uplifts the Cowles mission to create, present, and celebrate dance through their programming of a remarkable dance performance lineup of perennial favorites alongside some of the areas' strongest emerging artistic voices. The 9<sup>th</sup> season is filled with works by Minnesota movement-makers who are telling bold and captivating stories that reflect our diverse and ever-changing community.

From December 5 - 15, The Cowles Center is celebrating the holidays 'Rockin' Around the Tree,' with an ugly sweater dance party. Twin Cities tapper Ricci Milan (one of the founders behind the internationally touring Rhythmic Circus), and his crew at Rhythm Street Movement breathe new life into Who Brought the Humbug? at The Cowles Center—a performance jam-packed with high-energy live music, Broadway-style theatrics, and out-of-this-world tap dancing.

A riff on Ebenezer Scrooge's favorite expression, Who Brought the Humbug? stirs mystery theater with a holiday revue. Will joy and holiday cheer prevail over grumpiness? It also boasts a party-like atmosphere with top-notch tap dancing. Following sold-out performances last year at The Lab Theater, this performance is one wildly creative, interactive holiday show that the whole family can enjoy.

—Andrew Dolan



Who Brought the Humbug? will be showing throughout the month of December. Tickets range from \$30 — \$70, and can be purchased online. For more information, visit: [thecowlescenter.org/calendar-tickets/who-brought-humbug](https://thecowlescenter.org/calendar-tickets/who-brought-humbug)

All images courtesy of The Cowles Center.

# QUARTERLY

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## QUARTERLY ONLINE

All articles from this issue of the QUARTERLY can be found online at [artspace.org/news](http://artspace.org/news).

## FOOTNOTES

CAPTIONS FROM THE COVERS

Front Cover: Kindness is Everything, 2019.

Find more work from Maya James online at [mayamjjames.weebly.com](http://mayamjjames.weebly.com)

Captions from banner images on pages 4-5. Left to right: Maya James working in her studio (courtesy of the artist); Attorney and Business Advisor Lee Rankin of Lee Rankin Group wraps up her session during ArtUp's Accelerator for Creative Business program (photo provided by Katyana Dandridge); A young 653 Artist Lofts resident on clean-up day (photo by Jinza Thayer); ARTpurse by Jama Koester (photo by Hannah McDonald); "Spring '19 Lowertown Yarn Bomb", 2019 (courtesy of the artist); Group portrait on a tour of Pullman Artspace Lofts (photo by James Harvey).



# artspace

Artspace is a nonprofit organization that uses the tools of real estate development to create affordable places where artists can live and work. Artspace consistently develops these projects in ways that support stable, healthy communities, anchored in existing assets. Because Artspace owns each of the projects it develops, they are able to ensure that the spaces remain affordable and accessible to artists in perpetuity. With 50+ projects developed over the last three decades, Artspace has supported artist-led community transformation, representing a \$653 million investment in America's arts infrastructure. While embracing the value the arts bring to individual lives, Artspace has championed the once-radical idea that both artists living with financial hardship, and chronically underfunded arts organizations, can leverage fundamental social change. With headquarters in Minneapolis and offices in Denver, New York, Seattle, and Washington D.C., Artspace is America's leading developer of arts facilities; and has served as a consultant to hundreds of communities and arts organizations nationwide.



[ARTSPACE.ORG](http://ARTSPACE.ORG)



*As calendar pages turn, our minds turn to reflection and resolution. **What have you learned or experienced this year, creatively, that you hope to grow and explore in the next?***



Ciere Boatright  
Vice President, Real Estate and Inclusion,  
Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives

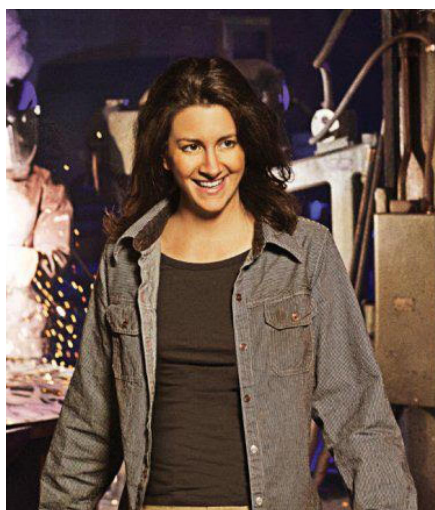
It's been a privilege to partner with PullmanArts and Artspace on Pullman Artspace Lofts. Not only are we putting two historic vacant buildings back into productive use, we're welcoming 38 artists and their families into the community. This development process has been a great example of authentic community engagement and another example of the importance of planning with communities, and not for communities. Looking ahead, I'm absolutely thrilled to cut the ribbon on this project and welcome 38 new artists to the Pullman community.

Lauren Hana Chai  
Resident Artist, Ola Ka 'Ilima Artspace Lofts

Since moving back to my hometown I've been busy with shows and popups. The amazing internet does wonders to connect strangers all over the world; however, I've learned this past year how important it is to connect with people face-to-face to share heavy emotions, laughs and hugs. It's all thanks to art. This year brought me back to my core. Art is for me, it is for you, it is for everybody.



Heather Doyle and Victoria Lauing,  
Artistic and Executive Directors, respectively, Chicago Avenue Fire Arts Center



This year we had the unique opportunity through the Artspace Immersion program to reimagine our space in the face of growth, and had the opportunity to reflect on how we serve our community through our pillars of artist support, public art creation, and education in our fiery art forms. We asked ourselves whether we were having the social impact we intend and challenged ourselves to deepen our understanding of equity and respond with clear and mindful expansion. There is much work to do, and we are thrilled to have this opportunity to look forward and beyond.

ONLINE AT  
[ARTSPACE.ORG/NEWS](http://ARTSPACE.ORG/NEWS)

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